

**RED POPPY**  
[*Ignis Ubinanae*]  
Flower with  
fiery plasma.



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## **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

### **Bio Art: Altered Realities**

*William Myers*

Thames and Hudson, 2015. 256 pp.



In *Bio Art*, writer and curator William Myers offers a timely look at the implications of new and emerging biological technologies as interpreted by more than 60 contemporary artists. Combining microorganisms with traditional media, pieces such as Julia Lohmann's *Co-Existence* (2009) probe our evolving understanding of the relationship between human and nonhuman organisms, while others, including Mara Haseltine's artificial oyster reefs (*Oyster Island*, 2010), explore how we are reinventing our roles in the earth's ecosystems. Still other works—including Eduardo Kac's transgenic petunia, which includes a gene isolated from the artist's own body (*Natural History of the Enigma*, 2008)—encourage us to reflect on the possibilities enabled by synthetic biology. Thoughtful and provocative, *Bio Art* is a compelling contribution to the biotechnology conversation.

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